



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

January 12, 2021

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_01.12.2021.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** Guide for requesting surge staff.pdf
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ-Final 1.08.21.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

Vaccination Updates

First, we know there will be occasions where you have a few doses remaining in an open vial. We ask that you put those doses into arms even if it is the arm of a person not in the current priority group. We want to work to make sure that no dose is lost due to expiration.

Second, though many are getting a sixth dose from Pfizer vials (which have a known volume of 5 doses) or an 11th dose from Moderna vials (which have a known volume of 10 doses), those extra doses are extremely dependent upon the needle, syringe and person withdrawing the doses. We encourage sites not to make adjustments to inventory until they know how many doses of vaccine they are able to withdraw.

Vaccine Staff Support for LHDs

- To request staff intended for **contact tracing, case investigation, and support related to those activities**, continue to use ServiceNow.
- To request **vaccination related requests for surge staffing, services, or equipment**, please coordinate with your local emergency management agency to resource locally first. If the resource is not available locally please submit a WebEOC request through your local emergency management agency.
- Please use the "Guide for Requesting Surge Staff" and attach to the WebEOC request.

NC COVID Outbreak Module Update

There are now fields in the outbreak submission form, as well as in the Outbreak Package in NC COVID, to note the number of cases who were vaccinated and how many people in the setting were vaccinated overall. Please fill these fields out. If no one was vaccinated, please put 0 into the appropriate field in NC COVID.



Please report cases in a person who received their second vaccine dose 7 or more days prior to symptom onset (or positive test if asymptomatic) to Epi On-Call at (919)733-3419.

CDC guidance on the use of antigen tests in LTCFs has been updated. In LTCFs positive antigen tests in asymptomatic individuals should be confirmed with PCR regardless of whether there is an active outbreak in the facility. North Carolina guidance on antigen testing remains unchanged in all other settings.

Infection Prevention Updates

CDC has updated guidance regarding [Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes](#)

- The CDC now recommends performing confirmatory NAAT test for all asymptomatic people with a positive antigen test. They no longer exclude confirmatory testing for a positive antigen test in an outbreak setting or if the person has had a known exposure.
- Facilities should follow the [algorithm](#) in the guidance including isolation of residents in a single room (not on a COVID-19 unit)/exclude HCP from work until result of the NAAT confirmatory test is available and the remainder of the algorithm is followed.

Until further data is collected, and guidance is updated everyone, including those who have received the COVID-19 vaccination must:

- continue to practice all prevention measures (wear masks, maintain 6 feet distance, perform frequent hand hygiene, avoid crowds)
- follow CDC guidance for quarantine following exposure

Facilities should closely monitor the availability of PPE and return to routine use (eliminating extended use and limited reuse) of PPE as soon as supply allows.

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov